

# House National Security Committee

## Subcommittee on Military Personnel

Steve Buyer, Chairman

### PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES STEVE BUYER, TILLIE FOWLER AND JANE HARMAN**

*Chairman of the House National Security Committee Subcommittee on Military Personnel, Steve Buyer (R-IN) and Representatives Tillie Fowler (R-FL) and Jane Harman (D-CA), leaders of a Congressional investigation into the issue of sexual misconduct in the military, issued the following statement regarding the Army's release of the findings of its investigations into sexual misconduct in the U.S. Army:*

"We commend the Army for conducting an extensive review of the circumstances that led to the serious cases of sexual misconduct at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, as well as at other Army installations. Although we have not had the opportunity to fully review these comprehensive reports, we are impressed with the seriousness with which the Army has addressed this very important matter.

"These reports verify what our investigation has shown us – that this is a very complex issue with various aspects and numerous contributing factors; there is not a single "root cause." As such, there are no quick fixes, no "silver-bullet" solutions. Rather, a series of corrective actions are needed to fully address the complexities of this issue. Improving the Army's human relations environment requires the Army's leadership to make a serious commitment to long-term corrective actions. We are confident the leadership is prepared to make that commitment.

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“The Army’s investigations highlight and confirm a fundamental finding of our own investigation – leadership is critical in creating and maintaining an environment in which all members are treated with respect and human dignity. Military leadership sets the tone for a command’s climate. As the Army report concludes, active leadership can bring about positive change to eradicate sexual misconduct; passive leadership allows sexual misconduct and sexual harassment to persist.

“These reports also confirm many of the other findings of our own investigation – the drill sergeant selection and training processes need to be improved; the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command was downsized too fast and too far, leaving a training workload that is greater than can be effectively accommodated by an undermanned training system; and the Army’s equal opportunity system is ineffective and needs substantial reform.

“After we’ve had the opportunity to fully review these reports, we will hold a hearing on this matter. On October 1, 1997, at 10 a.m., we plan to have the Secretary of the Army’s Senior Review Panel on Sexual Harassment and the Army Inspector General provide testimony to the Military Personnel Subcommittee on their findings and recommendations. Then we will allow the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff to provide testimony on the actions they plan to implement in response to these recommendations.

“Again, we commend the Army leadership for this exhaustive effort, and look forward to a robust discussion of the outcome of this effort at the October 1<sup>st</sup> hearing of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel of the Committee on National Security.”

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